

In the Specification:

Please **replace** the paragraph at **page 7, line 17 to page 8 line 20**, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

The side view of Fig. 1 shows a portion of a freight container 1 used as a food supply container that holds a plurality of food or supply receptacles 3, 3'. The freight container 1 sits on the loading floor F in the loading space 2 of an aircraft. The food receptacles 3, 3' rest on an intermediate floor 13 in the container 1. Guides 13' assure that a container 3 is properly aligned below an opening 8 in the container 1 and below a vertical shaft 6 for a lift 71 symbolically shown in Fig. 3. The shaft 6 defines an open shaft space 5 wherein the lift 71 can move vertically up and down. The loading space 2 extends below the main deck 4 of the aircraft and holds food, freight and supply containers 1. The dimensions of the containers 1 are preferably the same as the dimensions of any other freight container so that handling is facilitated when the containers are moved through a freight door into the loading space 2 including into a space vertically below a galley on the main deck 4. The receptacles 3, 3' have smaller dimensions than the containers 1 and hold food, beverages, and other supply goods. The receptacles 3, 3' may be standard trolleys, boxes, crates or cages, all of which are equipped, according to the invention, with latch elements 9 for cooperation with gripper mechanisms 7 that form part of the vertical lift 71 and are movable

vertically in the Z-direction with the respective movement of the lift 71 in the shaft space 5 while the freight containers 1 are movable in the X-, and Y-directions. The vertical lift 71 carries gripping the gripper mechanisms 7 and each comprising gripper mechanism comprises primarily a lifting hook 10 and a locking pawl 11. The number of gripping gripper mechanisms 7 carried by the vertical lift 71 preferably corresponds to the number of latch elements 9 of the receptacles 3, 3'.

Please **replace** the paragraph at **page 8, line 21 to page 9 line 19**, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

Details of the vertical lift 71 symbolically shown in Fig. 3 are conventional, except for the gripping mechanisms 7. A vertical lift is, for instance disclosed in German Patent Publication DE 102 04 892.4. Such lifts are mounted overhead for movement up and down in the lift shaft 6. The shaft 6 is mounted on the cabin floor of the upper deck 4. All structural components of the vertical lift are positioned on the upper deck and out of the way of any horizontal freight conveyors on the lower deck or floor F. The gripper mechanisms 7 in cooperation with respective latch elements 9 establish automatically an effective connection between the vertical lift 71 and the receptacles 3, 3'. The shaft space 5 is so dimensioned that the gripper mechanisms 7 holding a receptacle can freely move into and along the shaft ~~space 5.~~ space 5 when the lift moves up or down inside the shaft space 5. Similarly, the

opening 8 in the freight container 1 is sufficient for the gripping mechanisms 7 to pass into the container 1 for engaging the latch elements 9 of a receptacle. The latch elements 9 are preferably attached to the outer edges 31 or corners of the receptacles 3, 3'. However, it is also possible to integrate the latch elements 9 directly into the receptacles if the structure of the receptacle is feasible for such integration of the latch elements 9 into the side walls of the receptacle 3, 3'. The gripper mechanisms 7 are positioned in vertical alignment with the latch elements 9 when a receptacle 3 is in the proper position as determined by the guides 13'. Further, the receptacles 3, 3' are preferably equipped with guide pads 3A cooperating with respective stationary guides 115 in the shaft ~~space 5.~~ space 5, whereby the pads 3A slide along the stationary guides 115 when the lift moves a receptacle up or down in the shaft space 5, thereby aligning the lift 71 with the receptacle 3 so that the gripper mechanism 7 and the latch elements 9 can automatically cooperate with each other.

Please **replace** the paragraph at **page 15, lines 1 to 13**, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

The gripping mechanism 7 according to the invention is self-adjusting and makes possible that the receptacle 3 can orient itself in the X-direction, whereby an adaptation of the receptacle, or rather of its positional orientation relative to a horizontal guide system, becomes possible.

A change in the kinematic conditions is also ~~[[be]]~~ possible. More specifically, it is for example possible to change the distances between the journal points 102 and 112 and/or to change the shape of the cam track 113 or the shape of the contact arm 114 to thereby obtain a different motion pattern compared to the above mentioned parallelogram motion. Such possible adaptations facilitate the cooperation of the vertical lift transport with any horizontal transportation system on the loading floor.

Please **add** a new paragraph at **page 16, above line 6**, as follows:

As shown in Fig. 3, the upwardly reaching portion 31A of the edge 31 of the receptacle 3 is attached to one side of a respective receptacle corner while the corresponding latch element 9 is attached to the other side of the same receptacle corner.

**[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]**